

AN
ANSWER
TO THE
LETTERS
OF A
VENERATED NOBLEMAN.



AN

ANSWER TO AND REFUTATION OF

THE

PRINCIPAL PASSAGES,

IN THE

L E T T E R S

OF A

VENERATED NOBLEMAN,

CHALLENGING THE TRUTH OF THEIR ASSERTIONS.

BY AN OBSERVER OF COMMON EVENTS.

*Howard, Esq.
in Earl of Cardigan*

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TO THE EDITOR OF THE

THE

BRITISH MUSEUM

IN THE

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A N S W E R

TO

L E T T E R

THE FIRST.

F I R E D with an honest and truly animated zeal in defence of the Venerated Character, (whose talents and domestic virtues as husband, father, friend, together with his honest intentions of public service, I ever revere) I step forward with the most anxious wish to obviate every idea of supposition, that the Let-

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ters I am answering ever originated from either his own pen, or that of any of his *most confidential Friends*; but that they are merely the spurious production of some rancorous mind, envenomed by a false spirit of party, wholly intended to blow up the embers of sedition, and feed the flames of an ideal rebellion among those of his Majesty's subjects, who never entertained a distant thought of interfering in the politics of the country, till the furious partizans of *purchased bias* fed, with fresh fuel, the ordeal blaze, and flashed its vivid heat through almost every department; who, as *good subjects*, in lieu of palliating the grievances which separate friends, at a time when the strictest union is required, are endeavouring, by every evil machination, to dissolve the most sacred bonds of the community, of that community, which, if properly united, might bid defiance to every effort attempted by the enemies of the constitution, of church, or state. To enter upon this *pious task*, the writer of those inflammatory productions has prostituted the almost immaculate virtues of a truly dignified and benevolent

benevolent character on one hand, and degraded the respect due to others, under *initials*, merely to impose upon the credulity of the un-informed *alone*; as it is morally impossible for any person, who possesses talents, the smallest degree *above mediocrity*, to discover, even through the most magnifying perspective, the smallest trait of real learning, or erudition, throughout the whole of this venerated discovery of facts, which never originated but in the chimerical idea of some *devoted head*, devoted to *faction*, to dissimulation, and to the most *servile duplicity*.

Let not a misconstruction of causes absorb the consequent events. Judge, ye misled readers of those scurrilous tenets, whether a man of dignified birth, profound judgment, and of the first consequence in the pecuniary line, would not blush to add his own signature to the declaration of his public conduct, in correspondence with a nobleman who had previously experienced the task he had himself embarked in, and who must be too sufficient a judge of the disposition of the people of Ireland, to receive such a false imputation

imputation upon their conduct, and renewed attachment to their king and country. Surely he will not supinely suffer his merit to be thus depreciated, behind the *masked battery* of an *insidious foe*, who is not only sapping the foundation of this great character, but that of the far greater majority of the people of this country, who, instead of irritation in the present alarming crisis of affairs, require the soothing balm of consolation and friendship.—“Blessed are the peace-makers, for theirs is the kingdom of Heaven,” was the saying of the Patron of Humility. What then must be the denunciation against those who aim to counteract that invaluable blessing by inflammatory lessons of fictitious matter to stir up strife all the day long! Picture the awful contrast to yourselves, ye opposers of harmony and good order, and the issue will present itself in a view of horror! that will, that must, make you stand aghast at the shadow, the glaring shadow, of your own shameful misconduct in the cause of religion, morality and virtue.—Heaven forbid, that the late idolized viceroy of this kingdom should

should pass over such an attack upon his character, such an imputation upon his honor in his public capacity, and that he should betray so far his confidence to his sovereign, with whom he has been so many years in habits of friendship and intimacy, as to publish a correspondence to the public, which he must have pledged himself to keep most sacredly inviolable while in place. I firmly trust he will, under his own signature, convince both his friends and enemies, in their error of belief. Should that not be the result of this request, it must obviate in a great measure the high opinion he secured from the people, during his short residence in the kingdom of Ireland.

This Phantom of the late Viceroy proclaims, in his strange assertions, the calumnies and aspersions under which he labors, owing to the *dismissals* he had ordered, and which, he says, had been long agitated in the British Cabinet. If so, why had he not insisted upon their taking place previous to his embarkation, as that step must have obviated every difficulty attendant

dant upon the risk of new arrangements, while the Governor was upon the spot, who had remained his full time in authority? It certainly would have been drawing a much more favorable line in the business than to start upon such premature ground, as the annihilation *in Public* of a man who had stood the storms of every change during a period of twenty-five years, and would have tacked the *obloquy*, if such an appellation it deserved, to the tail of a passive Government, that had steered in the medium of *Damar and Minor*, without rising too high or being too much depressed in the aggregate system of legal disposals. Facts will look truth in the face, from what quarter soever this declaration may derive, it is not doubted, and consequently will stand the test of the keenest investigation.

The allusion of Clerks being turned Ministers, is another of the glaring proofs against the language of a Man in so elevated a Rank in life as a *Lord Lieutenant of Ireland*, and is a corroborating proof of the impropriety with
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which his dignity is called in question, and with how little delicacy this sacred matter is handled. The word sacred, I hope, will not be deemed a misapplication, where the very existence of so many thousands militate to enforce its consequence. The small regard that was observed in that essential business was one of the heaviest charges against the late Administration here; and, notwithstanding every deference to the exalted character that filled the Chair, it was too premature a step. To wield the Sceptre within its first extension of Power, to reinstate consequence in the Government by dismissing the main supporters of Cabinet systems, seems a paradoxical plan. To add new lustre to that which had declined in its brilliancy by the death of Lady W———d was certainly a very desirable object, for the encouragement of the Arts and Sciences; and the entrance of a Nobleman of such an extended Fortune and Connexions, beamed a Ray of Hope upon every description of people, from the variety of objects attainable under the prospect of such advantages; but as it is allowed on all hands,

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that the Feuds of Party had greatly subsided, and that the orders of Government had been specifically obeyed, why was there to be a total renovation of circumstances? Had not every wish been granted, and every desire gratified? The writer of this Letter will answer in the affirmative, and say the Loan was barely agitated, and that it was L—d / F———m alone that could carry it into effect; if so, he is allowed the full credit of completing it. Might not another have equally succeeded? Had the Finance business ever been impeded? Was there ever a dissension before or since the Year Ninety-five? I believe a monosyllable in small compass will point out the Answer.

It must appear to every candid reasoner very singular, and equally strange, that a L—d L——t should almost immediately upon his landing, propose to the British Ministers the removal of the A——y and S——r G——, as it is universally admitted that the Law Department in this Kingdom has been under the very best, and most honorable regulation, during the pre-
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dency of the present Chancellor, to whom the two gentlemen specified are in some degree subordinate. Rationality reprobates the idea, and Humanity starts at the proposal. A progressive survey of latent incidents might have given scope for the provision of the P——s and G——s, when every preference might in rotation have taken place. But why should an additional weight of 2300*l. per ann.* be laid upon a country for the gratification of a single individual, when the war required every assistance to defend that country, and protect its inhabitants? Why was the clerk who refused 1200*l. per ann.* to be a tax upon that community, that in his official capacity he has so many years attended, and supported his place with credit and reputation? How far such conduct may tend to the relief of a country groaning under augmenting taxes, is an enigma which time and the rational opinion of sensible men, under its various operations, alone can solve. Does this profusion of pensionary grants breathe that spirit of liberality towards the Irish, that made such proud boasting? Does this preying upon their vitals in any

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shape correspond with the bountiful disposition characteristic of L—d F——m? I answer, No! There is not, cannot be, the least coincidence of sentiment with that declaration. It cannot be fostered by the most zealous enthusiast in his favor, unless it should appear under his own sign manual.

The aid of parliamentary abilities is stated as a plea for the dismissal of those eminent luminaries of the law, who were to retire upon pensions! Is it possible to conceive that gentlemen trained through all the departments towards their ascendancy, and who must be particularly well versed in practical as well as theoretic knowledge, could be deficient in the needful aid to their country? I again answer, No. It is impossible but the walk they have pursued through life, must have given them a perspicuity into men and manners, far superior to those in other occupations, as in this country the representatives in parliament are not as in England, selected from those bred at the shrine of Commerce; hence it must evidently appear,
that

that of those who are candidates for senatorial business in this kingdom, none can be better qualified than those well versed in law, as from the continual scenes of trade errors that present themselves to those gentlemen, if they have a sufficient portion of integrity, they must of all others be the most able assistants in the Houses of Lords and Commons. This is a truth well corroborated, and with a man of understanding must be a leading motive for governing their choice, and is an additional proof of the improbability of the ideas of the Venerated Nobleman's Letters not being published under his own inspection.

The next point to refer to is Mr. B——d, whose case, in the aggregate, I revised in the first onset, lamenting the premature conduct that took place against him, stating him in a superior situation to the L——d L——t. A man high in office, of Noble Connexions, and truly eminent, cannot fail to accumulate both wealth and reputation, and at all events ought not to meet a peremptory Fate, unless as a defaulter
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he might be yielded ; but this was far, very far from being the case with this Gentleman. The Voice of the People was with him, a murmuring took place at the Exchange, and Justice preponderated in his favor. The issue of this event is too evident to be disputed, and consequently does not fall into the doubtful scale of them I allude to in the Publication. The terms that must have been held out as a compromise must have added greatly to the burden upon the shoulders of Hibernia, and must have acted as a counterpoise, to many great actions before it could be wholly absorbed, in the minds and memories of those, who were Volunteers in acknowledging him, to be a friend to merit, and to his country. That an abridgment of expence in curtailing the number of Commissioners in that stately Fabric the *Custom-house*, as death diminishes their number, must undoubtedly be an acceptable idea to the rising generation. But why, during life, deprive those who have acknowledged integrity of their present occupation ? The stages pass quickly by when it is easy here, as is sometimes

times done, in the Mother Country, to close the scene, by sinking the official departments in particular cases, where œconomy is in season; the uniting the Salt and Coach Offices, in London, was a prudent instance of such a measure, and was a considerable saving to Government, without distressing the immediate possessors, at a time of life, when disappointment operates more forcibly, than in the hey-day of youth, and the future chance of promotion. I assert this as a direct counterpart, to the illegal aspersions against Mr. B——d, and likewise, am inclined as before to calumniate the most distant idea of L—d F——m being in any shape whatever, the author of such a declaration of scurrillity, as is detailed in the letter imposed upon the world at large for his publication.

The letter before me declares, that defamation did not take place till Parliament had availed itself of the popularity of the L——d L———t to raise the supplies; that is an aspersion I solidly deny. The moment Mr. B——d's
dismissal

dismissal was declared, the city of Dublin was in Alarm, in the Trading line, and thought, the measure much too hastily forced upon the Public, without any other known Cause, than the prevalence of *Party*, which caused a general complaint, and produced a tremor among those, of almost every description in Government employ, abating in some degree the general Joy, expressed, on the landing of the new L—d L———t, to whom it seemed all parties looked up for a redress of their grievances. But how were the aggregate deceived who thought themselves secure under the shadow of government's wing, when they viewed with horror the desolation that was making among the sons of the Quill, whose aspiring Notions had soared too high to submit to be fathomed by the plummet of interrogation under the future hope of rotationally succeeding, in sailing to the haven of permanency in the Autumn of Life or winter of old age! Pardon, my readers, this rather ludicrous digression upon a serious subject; but it was really laughable after feeding the most extravagant Hope of the whole

whole Country, being exonerated from all difficulties, to see how many mistook the shadow for the substance.

It can never be conceived, that the correspondence ushered upon the world in the official capacity of men high in office, can reach the public ear, at a period which requires the utmost secrecy, which clearly evinces the improbability of such a correspondence being genuine, particularly at a time, when the writer declares, that he will confirm no assertions till he is closeted with the king ! An event, which, I believe, has not yet, or must at a very late period been announced, and consequently the secrets of the cabinet ought not to have been disclosed ; if they are, it must weaken a confidence the most sacred that can be relied on.

The grand subject of *Emancipation*, a term of more magnitude than the generality of people comprehend, and on which perhaps the weight of the crown depends, is a matter of great scope, and ought not to have been hinted

hinted at but by real authority of the L—d
 L——t, during whose short residence it was
 agitated, as it is too serious and too important
 a subject to be lightly handled ; and on which,
 (correspondence with the minister) a confirm-
 ation ought to be obtained, to enforce its weight.
 Sorry, truly sorry I am, that owing to some mis-
 representation of facts, an honourable gentle-
 man in the House of Commons in England,
 (Mr. F-x) has publicly declared this country
 to be in an actual state of rebellion ! the cruel
 aspersions of evil-minded people, have given an
 alarm ! but heaven be praised, the foundation is
 slender on which it rests ; the prevalence of
 intoxication occasionally operates, no doubt,
 against propriety ; but how soon are those tri-
 fling tumults suppressed to what they formerly
 were, and once stimulated to early instruction,
 and well-timed industry, the gross ideas of bar-
 barity will subside, and the meliorating tenets
 of religious morality, will soften the manners of
 the hardiest opposers to lenient measures in
 the *emancipation of their own guilt*. Suspend
 your judgment for a time, ye well-wishers of
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your country, suffer not your minds to be biaſſed by too much party zeal; let not your imaginations be fired by declarations there are no real grounds for; look upon every attempt that is made to diſturb your peace, to be made by the direct enemies of your country! Remember and look to the emancipation in a neighbouring kingdom! and ſee a deſolated country! a loſt trade, and a total overthrow of every principle of morality and religion! Remember that it was for the adoption of Engliſh laws, that the firſt application was made! Then you, my readers, be thankful to Heaven, that you poſſeſs thoſe laws without contention, without bloodſhed, without cavil, without ſeverity; each man under the ſhadow of his own vine, may enjoy his own principles, follow his own tenets, conduct his own trade, and reap the fruits of his own labour without moleſtation. Liſten not to the promoters of feuds for your leſſons of life; form no reſolves, that may fall ſhort of your wiſhes and expectations, but unite heartily in the cauſe of defence, to preſerve your country from impending dan-

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ger! and wait patiently the event of your requests. The majority of the people of this country, professing the Roman Catholic religion, are consequently many of them disciples to the emancipation cause; believe me, those who are the most rational, are no advocates for pressing the business, but wish to unite hand and heart for the general good. To those of such candid principles, it is, I wish to address myself; from their non-attention to the false rumour that enmity would willingly spread, nor depreciate the character of a truly worthy and respectable nobleman, under any false allegations of his public conduct, through the medium of false prints, but level his errors and precipitancy of public affairs, to some mis-understanding in his regal power, before his embarkation here, and the group of flatterers who immediately assailed him, under a false notion of incontrovertible power, an assumption he could never be entitled to under monarchical government. The efforts of a disappointed party, I trust, are now in the last convulsion, and will, when their reverie is over
again

again yield contentedly to the sublime laws of the present constitution.

If the declarations stated to be made by Mr. P—t and Mr. D——s are just, and can be relied on as true, it will not admit of the previous question; but who can foster such an idea, or suppose it could be fostered? Is it at all to be supposed, that a man who was to be trusted with the viceroyship of this kingdom, should so unjustly betray his trust, as to publish to the world, while he was in office, that they would grant an emancipation to the Catholics, to prevent a *rebellion*, which they should dread in Ireland? Can there be any rational ground for such a supposition? Every item creates fresh suspicions of falsehood in the pretended correspondence between the two noblemen in question. The author further says, “ that it is a business which was agitated in “ L——d W———’s administration.” Why then was it not brought forward in his time? It would have established his *popularity*. The approbation of so large a body of people as the

the Roman Catholics, would have been sufficiently flattering for any gentleman who was authorised to have introduced the measure, provided it acquiesced with his own sentiments, and yielded to the wish of his sovereign: but how far consistent with his coronation oath he can consent to such a step, is what must be maturely considered; and, notwithstanding the goodness of his heart, may lead him to gratify one part of his subjects, the task is arduous! The point is delicate! It is undoubtedly his own way; this, too, is not denied, from the most elevated to the most debased of that persuasion; neither is there at this day, any restraint upon their purchases, or trade concerns. Are not those privileges to boast of? Are not those growing encouragements a proof of the palliating disposition of a good government, who, I believe, have rarely refused any request that has been made from this side of the water within the present remembrance? Had the same concessions been made to the Americans,

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'tis probable to suppose, that they would still have been nurtured under our wing; the French then would not have made inroads to our peace, and the torrents of blood that have rushed in upon nearly all Europe, might have been stemmed! How far I may be justified in this retrospect view of past events, I leave my readers to determine; but, I trust, at the same time, that it will lead some, if not all, of the complainants of the present system, to see how much more essential the cause of the Irish has been attended to, than many others of his Majesty's subjects, and I trust they will consider it in the same light, as from this friendly hint I wish them to do. They will then open their eyes to the gracious reception their petitions have hitherto met, and wait patiently the event of their present and future prayer.

As in public assertions every testimony is required, will the Venerated Nobleman, whose veracity I fear is prostituted in this publication of state business, stand forward openly, and candidly, under his own signature, and
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avow the settled *emancipation of the Roman Catholics*? Will he defend his known veracity in this declaration? It is a matter of the utmost magnitude and extent. Is the royal word pledged? If it is, it must stand *as an irrevocable decree*? But if it is not, let those *tremble* who dare call so sacred a matter in question. With a design merely to impose upon the credulity of the appellants the hostility of human nature to restraint, has been digressed by the most able pens, and has shewn its true picture through every stage from the beginning of time, and frequently in the most fatal consequences. Ideal enjoyment has ever held up a false mirror of facts, when the accomplishment of purposes and designs has afforded a very different retrospect to the human mind. This evidently will be the case with the now earnest advocates for emancipation; the event is to themselves pregnant with many evils they are not at present apprised of; was that business now compleat, those who may gain advances in power would, by the ranks in gradation from themselves, be perpetually sued for
favors

favours they could not grant, and the intrusion of opinions under a claim of the indulgence being general, would cause a constant jar of the political system, when a failure of confidence would create division at present unknown, by looking to the general order of government for direction, protection and support, in the natural routine of state business.

That talents are the impartial distribution of a kind and good Providence through the medium of Nature to the whole race of mankind in general, admits of no dispute, and may, if founded upon the basis of integrity, have their radical effect through every scene of Life. No imputation of natural causes can obviate this truth, nor contradict the assertion; but, my Readers will remember, that it is the application of those gifts, that constitute their use. There scarcely can a line be drawn, in proving their effects. The good and evil they promote, according to the ground they are sown in, fix their standard, exempt from any imputations of rank, tenets, or situation, on which, terms
I wish

I wish to be exonerated, from not giving every degree of credit, to those whom prejudice of Education, or family causes have induced to follow the Roman Catholic Persuasion, which, with every other profession, holds out a sufficient lesson of morality, to govern the principles of their disciples, who are in the least susceptible to reason or religion, and doubtless has as good patrons of hospitality, humanity, and friendship, within the pale of her Church, as any other under gospel tenets. Why then should that asperity preside? why not unite in political efforts to assist the country, in a time of distress, though government retains the powers of ordination. What difference can arise whence the command flows? It is, obedience winds up the purpose of design; it is obedience alone, that can counteract the attempts of our enemies; it is obedience to the best of Kings, that can insure his assent to our wants and wishes; and it is obedience to the supreme of all kings, that can abridge the evils intended against us, by our yielding to the laws he has through his own Vice-regent, appointed for the

the regulation, of our Spiritual and Temporal concerns.

One dormant evil still in embryo, will, I fear, be attendant on immediate emancipation, from the qualifying purchases which would be made by the opulent Catholics, whose property is very great in specie. The value of land would probably encrease far exceeding its real value, which would greatly advance the rent already too high, and consequently much enhance the prices of provisions, which must cause the manufactures of the country to go much dearer to market and naturally check the advantages of a free trade, only just budding from its native stem, which may, if properly attended to, be one of the happy effects of the latitude obtained for the commercial interests of this kingdom.

Having as briefly as possible given my decided opinion upon the first of those letters

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held up to the public, as a correspondence with L——d C——e, I shall only make a few cursory observations on the general tenor of the second, which, breathing the same misguided attempt of justification in fact, which are paradoxical to each other, I shall ultimately wind up my observations, by acknowledging my surprise at the declaration of the word “*diffissal*,” being introduced by the nobleman in question, the matter having been understood by the aggregate of impartial observers, as a matter of choice in his own breast, on the non-accomplishment of the purposes he designed to bring into execution. How far the characters alluded to in the *initial list* of this correspondence are culpable, it will become them highly to declare, if they feel their consequence at all degraded by such partial assertions. It must be a matter of sincere regret to the candid reader, if those assertions are well grounded, to see the dissolution of so desirable a coalition as that of the D—— of P——d with the English administration already dissolved; if that has been originated in the affairs of Ireland, both parties

parties have ground for regret; but the ambiguity of the real cause being behind the curtain, let not the enemies of the Hibernian system, take advantage of any time-serving adherents to false principles, that may aim at dismembering that united system of friendship, which has been gradually nurturing between different parties and sects in this kingdom. Let no *slandrous or malevolent* pen, dip into the gall of sedition and rebellion, leave no avenue open for the admission of evil counselors or disseminators of party. Esteem every virtuous character, whether public or domestic, according to their real worth. Countenance no unjust sarcasms against preponderating merit; let virtue be your genuine characteristic; and the subsequent events of life will revolve under the cool shade of reason, through every trace of its varied labyrinths, without the asperity that has previously embroiled so many innocent and unwary persons, in the heat of party zeal, at a time when every stimulus to defence is necessary, and when the powers of operation can alone be forwarded by the joint exertions

exertions of the opulent under a wise parliament; when, if we encrease in our naval achievements, of which many have lately met our glowing information, we may still, under providence, retain that consequence for which we have from the noble courage of the subjects of the three kingdoms, been celebrated, not only in our own country, but have by the inhabitants of every quarter of the globe, been allowed the gracious palm of victory, which, in its due time, will, it cannot be doubted, again bear the olive in full bloom, in defiance of every opposer to the good order of society.

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